

City of San Diego Public Utilities
RESIDENTIAL OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION REBATE PROGRAM

Micro-Irrigation Rebate Guidelines

Rebate -- \$0.20 SF up to \$195

Did you know that more than 50% of the water consumed by most households is used to maintain landscapes and lawns? You can help reduce your outdoor water use, keep your landscape more attractive and healthy--and save money on your water bill--by upgrading to micro-irrigation. City of San Diego Public Utilities Department customers residing in a single-family home, duplex, townhome, or condominium that is served by an individual water meter can receive a rebate for upgrading to micro-irrigation. A limited number of rebates are available through a State of California grant and will be distributed on a first come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted. This program is subject to change without prior notification. Read below for program requirements and application process. Rebate check will be sent to the customer of record 6-8 weeks after application and the post-inspection site visit is successfully completed. If you have questions after reading these guidelines, please call 619-533-7485.

Applicant's water account must be in good standing and program requirements must be met to be eligible for rebates. Customer must agree to and sign the application agreement before rebate is administered. Changes related to rebate program must comply with all applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, conditions, and restrictions.



Rebate Process:

1. **Request an application and schedule a site visit...** Contact the Water Conservation Program at 619-570-1999 to request a rebate application. Schedule a water conservation survey/pre-site inspection. Allow ten days lead time for the pre-site inspection to be completed prior to installation of micro-irrigation.
2. **Have a water conservation survey...** A City Water Conservation Program representative will conduct a free residential water conservation survey at your house prior to installation of micro-irrigation.
3. **Install micro-irrigation and send in your application...** Purchase your "low application rate" micro-irrigation components, install them, then complete the application and send it to the Water Conservation Program along with the original retail sales receipts and/or any original invoices from your landscape professional, and a copy of your water bill.

4. **Have a post-site inspection...** After application is received, a City scheduler will call you to set up a post installation site-visit. A Water Conservation Program representative completes post-installation site visit to verify square footage converted and that the system is properly installed.

5. **Receive a rebate...** Allow 6-8 weeks for arrival in the mail.

Program Requirements:

- Convert existing in-ground and operable overhead spray irrigation for planter beds (not lawns) to micro-irrigation and receive \$20 for every 100 square feet (SF) converted. Rebate amount will not exceed total cost of the qualified components, up to a maximum of \$195 and 975 SF per property.
- At least 200 SF of landscape area must be converted from overhead spray to micro-irrigation.
- An entire irrigation valve (station) must be converted to micro-irrigation and must have a backflow prevention device. To properly reduce the pressure of the new low-volume system, entire zone must be converted and fitted with a pressure regulator at the individual valve, or a pressure compensating device must be included at each retrofitted sprinkler head. A filter is required either at the valve or at each individual head that is retrofitted with a micro-irrigation emitter.
- Drip, micro-spray, in-line tubing, or other low-volume micro-irrigation components that are rated in gallons per hour from any manufacturer are acceptable.
- A residential water conservation survey/pre-installation site visit by a Water Conservation Program representative is usually required before micro-irrigation is installed. A post-installation site visit is required to verify square footage and proper installation of the system.
- Submittal of original sales receipts from the retail store along with the completed rebate application is required. Do-it-yourself labor costs are not eligible for rebate. Receipts must include store name, purchase date, price, make and model #s. An "itemized" receipt that includes descriptive names of purchased products is highly recommended when buying many micro-irrigation components. Itemized lists are usually available when paying for products at the "Contractor's Check-Out Desk" in retail stores. If system was installed professionally, original invoice from landscape professional (with date, cost of service, model #s, service description) must be submitted.



What is micro-irrigation?

Micro-irrigation, also known as drip irrigation, saves water and fertilizer by delivering water precisely to plants through a network of valves, pipes, tubing, and emitters. Micro-irrigation systems deliver water much more slowly (flow rates in gallons per hour) than traditional overhead sprinkler systems, which distribute water less precisely to plants, with less accurate coverage to the entire planter bed at much higher flow rates (in gallons per minute).

Benefits of converting to micro-irrigation:

- Increased water application efficiency.
- Minimized fertilizer/nutrient loss due to localized application and reduced leaching.
- Effective in irrigating irregular shaped fields.
- Soil type plays less important role in frequency of irrigation.
- Minimized soil erosion, overspray, evaporation, and runoff.
- Foliage remains dry thus reducing the risk of disease.

How much water can micro-irrigation save?

Potential annual water savings for a typical single family home is estimated at 9 gallons per SF of irrigated area.

Costs that are covered by the micro-irrigation rebate:

Costs associated with purchase of any drip, micro-spray, in-line tubing, or other irrigation components rated in gallons per hour from any manufacturer are eligible for rebate. Rebate rate is \$0.20 per SF of landscape area converted, up to a maximum rebate of \$195 per single family dwelling. Rebate will be pro-rated based on total SF converted. For example, the rebate amount for conversion of a 350 SF planter bed: $\$0.20 \times 350 \text{ SF} = \70 .



Where to find micro-irrigation components:

Local retail outlets including but not limited to Home Depot, Lowe's, Dixieline, Ewing, Hydroscape, and Ace Hardware Stores carry varieties of micro-irrigation components.

This partial list is intended to help you complete your project and is for your reference only. The City of San Diego does not offer any endorsement or warranty regarding these vendors.

